The Loyal Non-Conformiſt,

OR;

An Account what he dare ſwear, and what not

I Fear an *Oath*, before I ſwear, to take it;
And well I may, for 'tis the Oath of God:
I fear an *Oath*, when I have ſworn, to break it;
And well I may, for Vengeance hath a Rod.

And yet I *may* ſwear, and *muſt* too; 'tis due
Both to my *Heav'nly* and my *Earthly* King:
If I *aſſent*, it muſt be *full* and *true*;
And if I *promiſe*, I muſt *do* the thing.

I am no *Quaker*, not at all to ſwear:
Nor *Papiſt*, to ſwear *Eaſt*, and mean the *Weſt*:
But am a *Proteſtant*, and ſhall declare
What I *cannot*, and what I *can* proteſt.

I never will endeavour Alteration
Of Monarchy, or of that Royal Name:
Which God hath choſen to command this Nation;
But will maintain his *Perſon*, *Crown* and *Fame*.

What *He* commands, if *Conſcience* ſay not nay,
(For Conſcience is a greater King than He)
For *Conſcience* ſake, not *Fear*, I will obey;
And if not *active*, *paſſive* I will be.

I'll pray, That all his Subjects may agree,
And never more be *crumbled* into *Parts*:
I will endeavour that His Majeſty
May not be *King of Clubs*, but *King of Hearts*.

The *Royal Oak* I ſwear I will defend;
But for the *Ivy* which doth hug it ſo,
I ſwear that is a *Thief*, and not a *Friend*;
And about *Steeples* fitter for to grow.

The *Civil Government* I will obey,
But for *Church Policie* I ſwear I doubt it:
And if my *Bible* want th' *Apocrypha*,
I ſwear my Book may be compleat without it.

I dare not ſwear *Church-Government* is *Right*
As it ſhould be: but this I dare to ſwear,
If they ſhould put me to't, the Biſhops might
Do better and *be better* than they are.

Nor will I ſwear for all that they are worth,
That Biſhopricks will ſtand, and Doomſday ſee:
And yet I'll ſwear the Goſpel holdeth forth,
Chriſt with his Myſteries till then will be.

That *Peter* was a *Prelate*, they aver;
But I'll not ſwear't when all is ſaid and done:
But I dare ſwear, and hope I ſhall not err,
He preach'd a *hundred* Sermons to their *one*.

Peter a *Fiſher* was, and he *caught* men;
And *they* have *Nets*, and in them *catch* men too:
Yet I'll not ſwear they are alike; for them
He *caught*, he *ſav'd*; theſe *catch* and them *undo*.

I dare not ſwear that *Courts Eccleſiaſtick*
Do in their Laws make *juſt* and *gentle* Votes:
But I'll be ſworn that *Burton*, *Prynn* and *Baſtwick*,
Were once *Ear-witneſſes* of harſh *Notes*.

Archdeacons, *Deans* and *Chapters* are grave men
By *Canon*, not by *Scripture*; but to this,
If I be call'd, I'll ſwear and ſwear again,
That no ſuch *Chapter* in my *Bible* is.

I'll not condemn thoſe *Presbyterians* who
Refuſed Biſhopricks and might have had 'em:
But *Miſtreſs Calamy*, I'll ſwear, as do
As well as if ſhe were a *Spiritual Madam*.

For *Holy Veſtments* I'll not take an Oath,
Which *Linnen* moſt *Canonical* may be:
Some are for *Lawn*, ſome *Holland*, ſome *Scotch-cloath*,
And *Hemp* for ſome is fitter than *three*.

Paul had a *Cloak*, and *Books*, and *Parchments* too;
But that he wore a *Surpliſe* I'll not ſwear:
Nor that his *Parchments* did his *Orders* ſhow,
Or in his *books* there was a *Common-Prayer*.

I own *Aſſiſtance* to the King by Oath;
And if he pleaſe to put the Biſhops down,
(As who knows what may be) I ſhould be loath
To ſee *Tom Beckets Mitre* puſh *Crown*.

And yet *Church-Government* I do allow,
And am contented *Biſhops* be then:
And that I ſpeak in earneſt, here I vow
Where we have *One* I wiſh we not have *Ten*.

In fine, the *Civil Power* I'll obey;
And ſeek the Peace and Welfare the Nation:
If this won't do, I know not what to ſay;
But farewell *London*, farewell *Creation*.

LONDON, Printed *Anno Domini*, MDCLXX.